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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

May 23, 2005

Edward M. McNamara, Esq.
Vermont Public Service Board
Chittenden Bank Building
112 State Street - Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Docket No. 7032

Dear Mr. McNamara:

As you know, today is the deadline for prefiling rebuttal testimony in this matter. The Department of Public Service is not filing rebuttal testimony at this time. We had hoped to be able to file testimony addressing the alternative route proposed by the Gregg Hill landowners, including an assessment of the aesthetic impact of that route. In order to do so, however, our expert needed to have the specific route marked on the ground; this marking did not take place in time to have the route reviewed and to prepare testimony addressing the public costs and benefits of the proposal in time for today's deadline. Consequently, at this time the DPS is unable to take a position on the Gregg Hill route proposal. We do intend to evaluate the Gregg Hill route proposal and to file testimony, no later than June 27, presenting our assessment of that alternative.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Commons
Special Counsel

cc: Service List